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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Gay Togs From Discards" - Information from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Our first Christmas story of the season is entitled, "Gay Togs from Discards." It comes from clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

If you'd have a store of gay and useful presents ready for old St. Nick... say these experts...it's time now to begin dipping into the family discards. See what you can find in the way of old knitwear...sweaters, woolen undies, bathing suits and worn socks. Things too good to throw away but not usable in their present state.

For the girl with imagination and a skillful needle...discarded knitwear may prove a real treasure store.

For example...picture these gay togs contrived by the clothing specialists from worn knitwear.

A red jacket with matching mittens and head band...the kind the school girls like. Colorful felt applique trails along the front seams. The jacket's warm because it's lined with soft black cotton. It has a Peter Pan collar and it buttons snugly down the front. Take it from the teen-ager, "This jacket's wearable ...but definitely!"

Seeing the jacket...you find it hard to believe that it came from an old fleece-lined union suit. As underwear...the suit was no longer usable. It had stretched crosswise and shrunk lengthwise.

The clothing specialists ripped the union suit apart. Then they dyed all the good pieces a pretty red. They fluffed the fleece side of the material to use as the outside of the jacket. They pressed the plain seams open...since the

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material won't ravel. Then they lined the jacket with black cotton to make it warmer. The lining also served to cover the seams. To complete the outfit, the clothing specialists used left-over pieces to make the mittens and headband.

An old wool bathing suit--with moth holes here and there--furnished the "makings" for a becoming Dutch bonnet and mitten set. The clothing experts used white wool single crocheting to join the front and back of the cap together...and to finish the front edges of the cap...and the wrist edges of the mittens. They used white felt applique for added trimming. And white felt heads on the hatpins gave another gay touch.

A warm cap, mittens and scarf came from a man's cast off sweater under the clothing specialists' magic wand. Really it was no trick at all. They just used the bottom edge of the sweater to make the cap. The ribbing helped to hold the cap firmly on the head. The knit goods was cut and seamed to fit the head...then seamed again across the top. The ribbing can be turned up double over the ears. Each of the two corners was pulled down and finished with pom poms.

Lounging socks or shufflers--as cute and cozy as you'd see anywhere--were contrived from some worn novelty wool socks with good tops. Soles for these came from an old gray felt hat.

Well...this isn't the whole story. Just a synopsis. But you'll find the complete story...crammed with ideas you can use for Christmas presents...in a bulletin called "Knitwear Make-overs." You may have a copy of this bulletin free if you'll write the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Just ask for "Knitwear Make-overs".

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